

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated March 6, 2008. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the patent application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111.

Summary of the Examiner's Rejections

Claims 1-9, 11, 13-21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morales (US 4,954,032) in view of Henningsson (US 6,670,869).

Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicant has previously submitted an Information Disclosure Statement which listed cited foreign patent document GB 1520420A. As requested in the Office Action, Applicant has included herewith a legible copy of this reference.

Summary of Amendment

Applicant has amended Claims 1, 4-6, and 8-9, and 11; claims 2-3, 7, 13-21, and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 25-27 have been added; no new subject matter has been added thereby.

Remarks regarding § 103(a) rejections

Claims 1-9, 11, 13-21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morales (US 4,954,032) in view of Henningsson (US 6,670,869). Applicant has previously traversed this ground for rejection and, to the extent applicable, re-urges the arguments made in previous Remarks. In the interest of advancing prosecution of this case, however, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to focus on certain novel features of the present invention. Independent claim 13 and the claims depending from it have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 1 as amended now recites a first screw part, a second screw part, and a resilient part to bias the two screw parts toward separation when they are brought into

communication with the wall of the first screw part being received into the wall of the second part. The two parts are held in communication by a resilient tongue of the first screw part that forms a bulge that is received in a recess formed on the outer wall of the second screw part. This configuration is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, either alone or taken in combination. In addition, claim 1 now recites a first set of stationary semi-spheres formed on the interior surface of the first screw part and a second set of stationary semi-spheres formed on the inside surface of the second screw part. These semi-spheres follow the threads of a rotating axle when it is received in the screw cavity formed by the assembled first and second screw parts. These features are also not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

Claims 2-3, 7, 13-21 and 23 have been cancelled. Claims 4-6, 8-9, and 11, and new claim 25, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, contain all of the novel features of claim 1 and are therefore distinguishable from the cited references for the same reasons. Claims 4-6, 8-9, and 11 have, however, been amended to make them consistent with amended claim 1.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully suggests that this ground for rejection has been overcome.

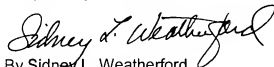
New claim 26 is directed to a tuning arrangement that includes the novel features of amended claim 1, as described above, except that the semi-spheres are now claimed in dependent claim 27. Claims 26 and 27 are therefore also distinguishable from the cited references for the reasons provided above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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